

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TOKYO 01823 090238Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-07 OMB-01 /063 W

-----090243Z 103759 /66

R 090211Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5334

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 1823

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: JA, KS, PFOR

SUBJECT: REACTION TO FUKUDA POSITION ON ROK TROOP REDUCTION

1. SECURITY CONSCIOUS ELEMENTS OF LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY HAVE REACTED SHARPLY TO FUKUDA STATEMENT TO VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE THAT TROOP WITHDRAWALS FROM KOREA WERE PURELY A BILATERAL AFFAIR BETWEEN US AND ROK. LDP SECURITY AFFAIRS RESEARCH COUNCIL, HEADED BY FORMER JDA MINISTER SAKATA, MET FEB 2 AND EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT PRIME MINISTER'S POSITION WOULD BE MISUNDERSTOOD TO MEAN THAT JAPAN NO LONGER CARED ABOUT KOREAN PENINSULA. COUNCIL FELT THAT FUKUDA SHOULD HAVE REAFFIRMED IMPORTANCE OF ROK SECURITY TO JAPAN, AND EXPRESSED OPPOSITION TO US INTENT TO LOWER GROUND FORCE LEVELS IN ROK. MEMBERS OF COUNCIL AS WELL AS OTHER LDP FIGURES, INCLUDING CURRENT JDA DIRECTOR GENERAL MIHARA, SAID THEY WOULD SEEK CLARIFICATION FROM PRIME MINISTER. LDP DIET MEMBER KONDO TETSUO, VICE CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL TOLD EMBOFF FEB 6 THAT MEMBERS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED LEST FUKUDA FORMULATION LEAD

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TOKYO 01823 090238Z

US CONGRESS AND PRESS TO UNDERESTIMATE LEVEL OF JAPANESE INTEREST AND TEMPT THEM TO PUSH FOR FASTER ACTION ON WITHDRAWALS. AS FOR CONCEPT OF REDUCING TROOP LEVELS, KONDO FELT "IDEA IN LINE WITH TREND OF TIMES."

2. MEANWHILE PRESS AND OPPOSITION HAVE BEEN QUESTIONING GOJ OFFICIALS CLOSELY ON CONTENT OF

TALKS WITH VICE PRESIDENT, ASKING IN PARTICULAR WHETHER JAPANESE STAKE IN ROK SECURITY HAD DECREASED, AND WHETHER GOJ HAD EXPRESSED APPROVAL OF US DESIRE TO WITHDRAW TROOPS IN ROK. BOTH CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY SONODA AND FONOFF SPOKESMAN YANAGIYA HAVE ANSWERED THAT JAPAN SIMPLY LISTENED TO US SIDE BUT EXPRESSED NO APPROVAL. PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA IN RESPONSE TO DIET QUESTIONING FEB 4 ALSO CHOSE TO MOVE BEYOND HIS EARLIER FORMULATION THAT WITHDRAWALS WERE MAINLY US-ROK ISSUE. FUKUDA TOLD DIET SITUATION ON KOREAN PENINSULA WAS MATTER OF "SERIOUS CONCERN", ADDING HIS HOPE THAT "INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK" WHICH SUPPORTED BALANCE ON PENINSULA WOULD NOT COLLAPSE.

3. COMMENT: NEITHER LDP NOR PUBLIC REALIZE THAT PRIME MINISTER DEFINED CLEARLY FOR VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE IMPORTANCE OF ROK FOR JAPANESE SECURITY. FUKUDA REMAINS PUBLICLY RETICENT ON THIS POINT TO DENY TO OPPOSITION LEVERAGE AGAINST HIM AND TO MINIMIZE STICKY DIET MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS. ACCORDING TO DIETMAN KONDO, HE ALSO WANTS TO AVOID QUESTIONS ON WHAT JAPAN MIGHT BE EXPECTED TO CONTRIBUTE TO MAINTAIN ROK SECURITY. SO FAR TACTIC HAS WORKED. OPPOSITION HAS FAILED TO GET HANDLE ON ISSUE, AND FUKUDA SHOULD BE ABLE TO QUIET LDP RIGHT WING WITH SOME PRIVATE EXPLANATIONS. THERE IS SOME RISK, HOWEVER, THAT DEPTH OF GOJ CONCERN ABOUT POSSIBLE DESTABILIZING EFFECTS OF US WITHDRAWALS MAY TEND TO BE OBFUSCATED, AT LEAST IN PUBLIC FORUMS.

SHOESMITH
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TOKYO 01823 090238Z

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TROOP DEPLOYMENT, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TOKYO01823
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770045-0748
Format: TEL
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770256/aaaabxvx.tel
Line Count: 97
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 20c118c9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3359606
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REACTION TO FUKUDA POSITION ON ROK TROOP REDUCTION
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, JA, KS, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/20c118c9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009